

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03

SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /058 W

-----063799 271243Z /50

R 261229Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6452

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5512

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PEPR, RO, PO

SUBJECT: GOP REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RHODESIA

SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON RHODESIA. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO THE GOP REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JULY 24, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFRICAN DIVISION DIRECTOR PAULOIRO DAS NEVES ONCE AGAIN STATED THAT THE GOP VALUES THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE GOP ON AFRICAN MATTERS. HE REQUESTED THAT, IF POSSIBLE, THE PROGRAM BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE EXCHANGES ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE 9000 PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS IN RHODESIA AND THAT THE GOP STILL MAINTAINS A "DIPLOMATIC OFFICE" IN SALISBURY.

2. NEVES WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN OUR CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION, INCLUDING:
--THE STATUS OF THE GUERRILLA WAR;
--AN EVALUATION OF MAJOR PERSONALITIES AND ESTIMATES OF THEIR POLITICAL STRENGTH IN RHODESIA;
--SURVIVAL PROSPECTS FOR THE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT";
--CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE ANGLO-
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AMERICAN PLAN.

EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE WOULD RELAY THE REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE GOP IS BUOYED BY RECENT SUCCESSES IN RELATIONS WITH ITS FORMER COLONIES, AND ESPECIALLY THE EANES/NETO SUMMIT. GOP INTERESTS IN RHODESIA STEM NOT

ONLY FROM CONCERN ABOUT THE RHODESIAN PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY,
BUT ALSO (AND PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANTLY) FROM THE FACT THAT
TWO OF PORTUGAL'S FORMER COLONIES ARE FRONT LINE STATES.
NEVES'S STATEMENTS ALSO REFLECT STRONG GOP CONFIDENCE
IN USG AFRICAN POLICIES WHICH THE GOP BELIEVES PARALLEL ITS OWN.

GIVEN THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE
EMBASSY ON ANGOLAN MATTERS AND THE GOP SUPPORT OF U.S.
GOVERNMENT AFRICAN POLICIES, WE BELIEVE AN EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION COULD BE MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON EXPANDING OUR EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION ON AFRICA TO INCLUDE RHODESIA AND AN INITIAL
ASSESSMENT OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION FOR USE IN DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE GOP, IF APPROPRIATE.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, FOREIGN EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON05512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780308-0241
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780719/aaaaapyo.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d04586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1882416
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RHODESIA SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON RHODESIA. EMBASSY RECO
TAGS: PEPR, RO, PO, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d04586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014